

England to Encourage African Cotton Growing.

In the English House of Commons last week John Rutherford, member for the Darwen division of Lancashire, moved that "in the opinion of this house, it is incumbent upon the government to encourage the growing of cotton in Africa and elsewhere in the British possessions, and also to co-operate with the commercial associations working in that direction. He said there was a vast field inside the British empire for growing cotton, and that extensive experiments were being made in the British possessions with every prospect of success. An arrangement had just been concluded between the colonial office and the cotton growers association, whereby the latter agreed to provide \$150,000 for the development of the industry in Lagos, southern Nigeria and Sierra Leon, which dependencies had contributed an additional sum of \$32,500. The government, the secretary said, entertained the largest hopes of an immediate supply of cotton from west Africa, and he thought that the matter there might now pass from the experimental to the commercial stage. Several members representing the cotton industry expressed satisfaction with the statement of Secretary Lyttleton, and Mr. Rutherford's motion was adopted without division.

Rural Telephones.

Rural telephones are the farmers' friend. The mechanism is simple, a child may use one. Expense is nominal. When once introduced into a community the telephone requires no further reference. With good roads, rural free delivery and a reliable farm journal the telephone does more to make the farm up-to-date and profitable than any other agency. Phone for market quotations, supplies, farm hands or a doctor. It will save many trips when the field requires attention.

The first step to take toward promoting a farmers' telephone line is an organization of farmers in one neighborhood. Secure at least 15 or 18 charter members. Organize along business lines, but don't reduce estimates of cost to the minimum. A conservative figure for best service on a fifteen phone line is a little less than \$2 a month. Incorporate under the law by securing a charter free of charge from your secretary of state and select the kind of telephone you care to use.

Improved systems have double wires, although a single wire may be utilized by requiring the ground to carry the return current. The latter is not entirely satisfactory because sound waves from the earth may interfere with the voice.

It requires no expert to build a telephone line. When only two or three wires are strung it is not necessary to use cross arms. If there are two wires the one that is started at the top should be kept in that position on all the poles to the end of the line.

Material necessary for a one mile

line with full metallic circuit using thirty 25 feet 5 inch top poles to the mile:

Three hundred and thirty pounds No. 12 galvanized B. B. wire, \$12.36; 60 oak brackets, 72 cents; 60 No. 9 pony glass insulators, 90 cents; 30 60-penny and 30 40-penny nails, 50 cents; total, \$14.48.

No estimate has been made for the cost of digging holes, the poles and stringing the wire, as it is expected this will be done by the members themselves. An allowance ought to be made for guy wire, for it is very important that the lines should be guyed where they turn corners or cross highways. For a neighborhood line covering say 15 or 20 miles, a ground circuit would give good service, provided there are no telegraph, electric light or trolley lines in the vicinity. The grounded line can be changed to a metallic line any time after the line is built.—P. C. T., Dallas, Tex., in Texas Farm and Ranch.

A Short Crop of Tobacco.

Capt. E. M. Pace, of Wilson, the veteran tobacco grower, is in the city. "More tobacco has been sold in Wilson this season than last season," said Capt. Pace yesterday. Last year's receipts were 22,296,077 pounds with an average price of \$11.00, while this year already 21,491,517 pounds have been bought and tobacco is still coming in.

Capt. Pace does not think that more than forty per cent of a crop will be planted this year, but the only reason is that the plants are not obtainable, the weather has prevented preparing the beds. "No, it is not the price of tobacco that will decrease the acreage," said Capt. Pace; "the prices are as good now as any one could want considering the quality of the product. If the present offerings were of the previous year's crop, they would not have brought as much then as they are doing now."—Raleigh Post.

"If people were required to pay cash in advance for fertilizer there wouldn't be so much of it used," said a farmer the other day. That is probably correct. The fertilizer bills might be reduced a great deal if everybody could and would pay cash in advance. "Spot cash" helps a man out wonderfully, anyway, when it comes to making business deals. If you have the cash you can get the lowest price always. Competition between towns and between firms secures a mighty close price on goods if you have the cash to pay. Very few farmers would think about borrowing money and paying 10 per cent, but they will pay 10 per cent above the cash price for fertilizers for seven or eight months time which amounts to a rate of more than 15 per cent per annum, and think but little about it. The ready cash comes in mighty handy and helps a man to economize even in buying his fertilizers.—Marshville Home.

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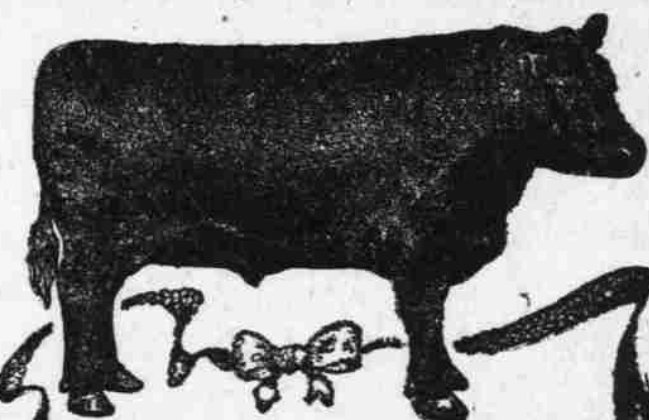
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